

2. (TWICE AMENDED) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises:

storage means for storing a plurality of said unit image groups,

said storage means storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information, and

said image generating means reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing unit image groups.

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3. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a sequential character image, comprising:

image generating means for causing the computer to generate a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined in advance and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and

display means for causing the computer to display said sequential character image.

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4. (TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus which generates a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character;

a data retrieving part selectively searching and reading the unit component images stored in said database; and

a connecting part connecting an end image of a first unit component image read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image read by said data retrieving part.

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5. (TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus for generating a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer;

a retrieving part reading a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from said database, based on the input attribute information; and

editing means for editing the unit image group read by said retrieving part.

~~12.~~ (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a data retrieving part causing the computer to selectively search and read unit component images stored in a database which stores unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character; and

a connecting part causing the computer to connect an end image of a first unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part.

~~14.~~ (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a retrieving part causing the computer to read a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from a database, based on the input attribute information, said database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and

editing means for causing the computer to edit the unit image group caused to read by said retrieving part.

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(TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:

image generating means for generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer;

display means for displaying the sequential character image; and

control means for controlling a device depending on a motion of the sequential character image.

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(ONCE AMENDED) An image generating method to generate a motion picture, comprising:

defining communication information, which guarantees in advance to indicate the communication information to a viewer;

generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which, respectively, indicate the communication information to a viewer; and

displaying said sequential character image.

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(ONCE AMENDED) The image generating method as claimed in claim 15,

which further comprises:

storing a plurality of said unit image groups,

storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information, and

reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing unit image groups.

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(ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:

an image generator generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which, respectively, represent an action and the plurality of unit image groups are guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and  
a display displaying said sequential character image.

~~3~~18. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of said unit image groups are made up of humanoid images.

~~6~~19. (NEW) The storage medium as claimed in claim ~~3~~5, wherein the plurality of said unit image groups are made up of humanoid images.

20. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~9~~18, further comprising:

a cooperation unit to adjust a reproducing time of image data when the reproducing time of the image data and a reproducing time of audio data do not match, such that the adjusted reproducing time of image data matches the reproducing time of audio data.

~~27~~21. (NEW) The image generating method as claimed in claim ~~18~~25, further comprising:  
adjusting a reproducing time of image data when the reproducing time of the image data and a reproducing time of audio data do not match, such that the adjusted reproducing time of image data matches the reproducing time of audio data.

*24 Cont.*  
~~4~~22. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~7~~23. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim ~~3~~5, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~9~~24. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~4~~8, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~11~~25. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~10, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.